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—who had made himself so good a geographer by his extensive travels. It was, therefore, well that they should wish him prosperity and long life. Above all, he hoped very soon to be able to announce that His Royal Highness would condescend to accept that post which was held by his illustrious Parent, and become, under Her Majesty, the Vice-Patron of the Royal Geographical Society.

The meeting was then adjourned to Nov. 24th.

Second Meeting, Monday, November 24th, 1862.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

PRESENTATIONS.—*General W. Marcus Coghlan; J. Lewis Franklin, and John Flint South, Esqrs., were presented upon their election.*

ELECTIONS.—*Colonel Thomas Addison, C.B.; Captain Bagot; Lieut.-Colonel G. Clement Baillie, R.E.; Captain C. E. Barrett-Lennard; General W. Marcus Coghlan, R.A.; Commander H. A. Fraser, I.N.; Captain C. Webley Hope, R.N.; Major-General Edward Macarthur, C.B.; Lieutenant Mervyn B. Medlycott, R.N.; Rev. John V. Povah; Captain Leveson E. H. Somerset, R.N.; Captain C. Freville Surtees; John B. Baillie; Lucas Barrett; J. Comber Browne; John Cargill; Walter Cope; Sedgwick S. Cowper; J. H. Eaton; William Eaton; Henry D. Erskine; John Fletcher; James Griffin; Samuel H. Hinde; William Kershaw; Chessborough C. Macdonald; George F. McDougall, R.N.; Daniel Mackinly; Francis Muir; Frederick Rasch; John Shaw; John Thomas; P. G. Van der Byl; E. Wingfield Verner; Samuel Woods; and Heathcote Wyndham, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.*

ACCESSIONS.—Among the donations to the Library and Map-rooms since the former meeting were—Markham's ‘Travels in Peru and India;’ Brine's ‘Taeping Rebellion in China;’ Dhanjibhai Framji's ‘Origin and Authenticity of the Arian Languages;’ Barrett-Lennard's ‘British Columbia;’ Gether's ‘Gedanken über die Naturkraft;’ Maps of the Victorian Mining Districts, Australia; Admiralty Charts, &c. &c.

EXHIBITIONS.—Several sketches of natives and zoological specimens, made by the East African Expedition; a sample of Abyssinian cotton, obtained by Dr. Beke, F.R.G.S.; and a specimen of lead from the Bight of Benin, sent by Captain R. F. Burton, F.R.G.S., were exhibited.

The Papers read were—

1. *Exploration of the Niassa Lake.* By DR. LIVINGSTONE and his Party.

AFTER establishing the members of the University Mission in the neighbourhood of Mount Zumbo, Dr. Livingstone proceeded with his party to explore the Lake Niassa. They carried a four-oared

boat in three weeks past Murchison's Cataracts, which extend through 35 miles of latitude, and launched her on the upper waters of the Shiré. They entered the lake on September 2, accompanied by a score of natives, and explored its western coast for 200 miles, travelling until they were compelled to return from want of food, due to the recent extermination of the northern coast tribes by savage warfare. Part of the expedition went on foot and part in the boat: the latter were never able to cross the lake or venture far from shore, owing to the suddenness and extraordinary violence of the storms. They ascertained its breadth by rough triangulation, whenever the haziness of the air allowed the opposite shore to be seen, but no certain knowledge was obtained in regard to its northern extremity. The lake has something of the boot-shape of Italy: it is narrowest at the ankle, where it is 20 miles, and broadens gradually to 50 or 60 miles. Its western shore presents a succession of sandy bays, each divided from its neighbour by a bold headland, with detached rocks, extending some distance out to sea. Much of the land adjacent to the lake is low and occasionally marshy: it is tenanted by water-fowl and some elephants. Eight or ten miles from the shore are ranges of high and well-wooded granite hills, nearly parallel to its course, and presenting in several places a magnificent succession of distances. The intervening plain narrows towards the north; where Dr. Livingstone turned, it disappears altogether. The depth of the lake is readily to be traced by the changing colour of its surface. A belt of bright green water fringes the shore, and varies in breadth from a few yards to several miles: beyond this is the deep blue water of the body of the lake. A sounding-line of 200 fathoms was found insufficient to reach the bottom one mile from shore. The temperature of the water is 72° Fahrenheit; its rise in the rainy season is 3 feet. Five affluents were seen on its western coast, of inconsiderable size: their united volume was far inferior to that of the waters of the Shiré.

Natives, of essentially one tribe and language, throng the southern portion of the lake. Their villages are so close together as frequently to form a continuous line of habitations. They are hard-working fishermen and good cultivators of the land: they were reasonably civil to Dr. Livingstone's party, and exacted no dues for the right of transit. The slave-trade is unfortunately active. An Arab had built a "dhow" (boat) on the lake, in the latitude of Ibo, for the purpose of ferrying slaves across. Dr. Livingstone's present endeavour is to transport a steamer to the Niassa for the purpose of checking this traffic as far as may be practicable, and also with the object of further exploration.

[Nov. 24, 1862.]

The PRESIDENT said the object of Livingstone, now that he had accomplished this remarkable journey in a small boat, after carrying it up the Shiré alongside the cataracts which had been alluded to, was to convey a small steamer, which the Government had placed at his disposal, by the same route from the Zambesi to the lake, in the hope that it would enable him to put an effectual stoppage to the slave-trade proceeding across these waters from the westward. Hordes of slaves are brought down from the interior, and carried across the lake at certain passages where the lake is narrowest. The most cruel part of the traffic is that when the lakes are passed ; the slave-gangs are driven down to the coast, and lodged in the malarious recesses and bights at the mouths of the rivers, until the slave-ships are ready to take them away. In this way hundreds of them perish, as shown by the skeletons which have been found there. With a single small steamer, still better with two, Livingstone contends he could do more to check the slave-trade than by a number of large vessels stationed off the coast ; since it is impossible for these to hunt out every little bay into which the slaves are driven. In this way, therefore, at much less eventual expense, Livingstone may be able to carry out this great object which he has at heart.

2. *Letters from CAPTAINS SPEKE and GRANT, of the East African Expedition.*

THESE are dated at various times between February and September, 1861, during which interval the travellers encountered great difficulties, due to two independent causes. The country had been afflicted with drought and famine to an extent which made all traffic exceedingly difficult, and there were native wars on the occasion of a disputed succession to a chieftainship. As a partial consequence of these, the porters who accompanied Captains Speke and Grant were constantly abandoning their service, either fearing the danger or taking advantage of the general lawlessness of the land. The geographical additions to our knowledge are thus far of little importance. The movements of the travellers have been seriously embarrassed ; Captain Speke has also suffered, and recovered from, an attack of weakening fever. The latest intelligence was the most favourable : the party were then encamped in s. lat. $3^{\circ} 26'$, interpreters had been procured, a sufficiency of porters had been obtained, and Speke and Grant were on the point of advancing towards the Nianza Lake. Robberies and desertions had materially reduced their funds ; but Captain Speke's last letter, of September 30, 1861, was written in better spirits. He regrets that, as circumstances have turned out, he did not attempt the northern route to the Nianza by way of Kilimanjaro, instead of following his previous track.

3. *Proceedings of MR. CONSUL PETHERICK, F.R.G.S., on the White Nile.*

MR. PETHERICK's departure from Khartum was delayed so long, that the periodical winds of the White Nile had changed to his